[16th March 1923

A.—The reduction was made, not by dismissing members of the force but by leaving unfilled vacancies as they occurred and so far as is known no constables were deprived of their livelihood in consequence.

There was no reduction in Madras city. That in the mufassal amounted to 2,287 men in 1922. Figures for 1923 are not available.

Candidates for secondary grade training.

894 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. PALMER : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the candidates selected for secondary grade training are of low standard ; and

(*b*) whether it will not be possible in the interests of education to raise their standard ?

A.—No. Ordinarily principals and inspecting officers select such candidates as possess secondary school-leaving certificates showing a satisfactory school record and marks at the public examination or the public examination after moderation not below the Presidency average.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" May I know if the answer given is with reference to (*a*) or (*b*) or both, Sir ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" It seems to me an answer to the whole question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I take it that it is an answer to (*b*) also. Am I also to understand, Sir, that the names of these candidates need not appear on the eligibility list ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I must have notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I say this because the alteration is not effected for boys whose names do not appear."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" It will be kept in view, Sir, and answered in the next question that my friend may give notice of."

Indian Christian voters' list.

895 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. PALMER : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the last elections many Indian Christians were included in the non-Christian voters' lists, sometimes against their protests ?

A.—The Government have no information. They are further not aware of any protests having been made.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I request Government to get information, because I know there are many cases where the Christians requested the people who were responsible for making this list to enter their names there. They were refused."

16th March 1923]

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"I am afraid I must only answer this question by putting another. May I ask whether the hon. Member can guide us in the way of obtaining this information? It seems to be very difficult to get it."

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—"Yes, Sir."

Pay of non-gazetted officers.

896 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(*a*) to lay on the table G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921, fixing the initial pay of non-gazetted subordinate officers in their time-scale re-organization scheme ; and

(*b*) to state whether, in view of the fact that the benefit of counting past service for advance increment in the case of these subordinates was negatived by a vote of this Council in 1921, it is the intention of Government to exempt those poor public servants who have put in more than ten years' service and who were drawing a salary of less than Rs. 100 per mensem for a period of more than three months prior to 1st March 1921 from the restrictive and negative operation of rules 4, 5 and 8 therein and extend to them with retrospective effect from 1st March 1921 the absolute benefit arising from rules 1 and 3 alone of G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921?

A.—(*a*) A copy of the Government Order is laid on the table.*

(*b*) The Government do not propose to grant any general exemption. Individual cases of hardship, if brought to notice, will be considered on their merits.

Forest Panchayats in the Presidency.

897 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(i) to state—

(*a*) how many forest panchayats are at present in working order in each of the districts of this Presidency ; and

(*b*) in how many of them members of depressed classes are nominated ; and

(ii) to call for and lay on the table a monthly digest indicating the activities of the special staff recently sanctioned by Government for the organization of forest panchayats in this Presidency?

A.—(i) (*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to column 6 of Appendix I to Mr. Bles's report on page 21 of G.O. No. 774, Development, dated 7th June 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The Government have no information. The members of each panchayat are selected by the villagers themselves.

(ii) The Government have decided to obtain quarterly reports on the subject.

---

* Vide Appendix A on page 2438 infra.